Policy on promotion of Agriculture Exports

962. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether building on its initiative to promote agricultural exports, the Commerce Ministry is preparing a new policy which proposes providing farmers the latest biotechnology and extensive market intelligence, greater support under the WTO compatible green and amber boxes.

(b) if so, whether the policy envisages close cooperation between the Department of Commerce, Agriculture and Biotechnology;

(c) if so, whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been worked out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Government is continually striving to boost exports of Indian products through all possible means, including through transfer of available information and inputs to the farmers. Research and development activity is on-going to enchancc productivity and reduce costs in the agricultural sector. There is close coordination between various Departments and Ministries in this context, including between the Departments of Commerce, Agriculture and Biotechnology.

National Action Plan for industrially backward areas

963. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Action Plan for the development of industrially backward rural areas in the different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;